

# PRINTS OF PEACE

MAY 2024

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## WORSHIP & SPECIAL EVENTS

- May 5 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)  
Coffee Hour (10 AM)
- May 11 Council Retreat
- May 12 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)  
Coffee Hour (10 AM)
- May 14 Bible Study (10:30 AM)  
Green Team (3:00 PM)  
Council (6:30 PM)
- May 16 Mobile Food Pantry (7 AM)  
Women in Motion (11:30 AM)
- May 19 DAY OF PENTECOST  
In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)  
Welcoming New Members  
Coffee Hour (10 AM)  
Congregational Meeting with Elections (10 AM)
- May 26 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)  
Coffee Hour (10 AM)
- May 28 Bible Study (10:30 AM)
- May 30- June 5 Immersion Group

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING May 19 after worship

\*Election of Committee and  
Council Members

Updates from Standing Committees

Approval of Parking Lot Updates

## SCRIPTURE READINGS



### May 5

Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

### May 12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

### May 19

Acts 2:1-21  
Ezekiel 37:1-14 (alternate)  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27  
Acts 2:1-21 (alternate)  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### May 26

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

## PLC STAFF

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale, Pastor  
[pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com)

Sandy Johnson, Parish Admin.  
[office@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:office@peacelutheranlc.com)

Jieun Newland, Music Minister  
Tommy Grimes, Custodian



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[www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc](http://www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc)

# Pastor's Message

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

Even though we are in the throes of the Easter season, I've been pondering Advent a lot lately. It might make sense given my current situation...during Advent we wondered together about Mary and Elizabeth—these two women both carrying children, looking to God and their community for guidance and reassurance, and leaning into hope as they anticipate their children's arrival. And actually, in this month, we recognize the feast day (May 31) commemorating Mary's visit to Elizabeth as well as Hannah's song and ministry in 1 Samuel.

As I approach the 8<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy, I'm again reflecting on these two women, and the awe and fear they must have felt (not unlike the women at the tomb!). If you've been paying any attention at all to my sermons, you know that a big tenet of faith to which I hold fast is *paradox*—and especially the paradox of holding lots of emotions at the same time, and trusting that God shows up in the midst of all of them. Weariness and joy, fear and awe, trust and doubt, grief and gratitude...can all co-exist, even though we like to pretend that they are opposites.

My Advent ponderings are also stirred by my stumbling upon a quote from the first Sunday after Christmas, that captures well the thoughts and concerns and joys filling my new parent heart. On that Sunday we often hear the story of Simeon and Anna from Luke 2:22-40. This passage is baby Jesus' first public outing (or at least the first one that we hear about) and he is brought before elders in the temple, who surround him with a blessing. As I reflect on Simeon and Anna, I think about all the kind words of blessing that you all, dear church, have offered me and Michael already, and it brings tears to my eyes pondering the love and blessing that you will continue to pour into this child.

Here's the quote that Erendira Jimenez Esquinca wrote regarding the passage:

*"I think about what it means to carry life from womb to embodied reality, what world awaits this child, what future this little human might be a part of co-creating, and what aches I might have to carry as I watch my child grow. Simeon's words resonate in that **the life of a child carries with it the hope of a world transformed.**"*

*But I hold this hope juxtaposed with scenes of infants, children, parents, families around the globe walking miles displaced from homes as bombs drop and war rages, buried under rubble, and starving from lack of access to food and water."*

This year has been full of scary, holy, moments. For me, right now the scariest, holiest, is anticipating the arrival of this child. The world can be cruel, disaster and violence are real. And yet... when we worship together, dear church, I'm reminded that the disaster and violence are not the whole story—God as revealed in Jesus Christ brings *new life*; God has promised to continue making all things new. I feel this now, literally in my body with the growing new life within me, but I also feel this when we gather on Sundays. When we dine together at the open table, read the living word, share the reconciling peace, worship God with praise... our songs are not just nice jingles but protest hymns—insisting that another way, another world, is possible. One where all are welcomed, fed, loved. Our worship is a song of hope—the hope of a world transformed.

With fear and awe, I already find myself wondering how this child will live into that hope, too. But they can't do it alone. Just like each of us, this baby needs community, and I can't wait to officially welcome them into this beloved, inclusive, grace-filled community that is Peace Lutheran Church.

# Pastor's Message

continued

So... you won't see me for much of June, July, or August. But know that our church leadership and I have prepared for this time away, and I am so grateful for this time to recover and bond with our new baby. Rick Green and Lyn Barrett have graciously agreed to fill in for Sunday morning worship leadership the first two months, and we have a wonderful slate of lay preachers who you will get to hear from later this summer. Our Pastoral Care Team has been meeting regularly this year and will be available to receive pastoral care requests, should anyone be in need of prayer, a call, or a visit. We have Lay Eucharistic Ministers (a communion team!) should you desire to receive the sacrament at home or elsewhere. Sandy continues to hold down the fort in the office, and as always, she can direct you to who you need if you have a question or concern.

If you email me, you might receive an 'out of office' reply, but know that I am not far away in our life together in the Spirit. I continue to pray with and for you all during this time, and I would love your prayers as Michael and I continue on this scary, holy journey of parenthood.

## Communal Worship Mission Team

**Council Representatives:** Ginny Acosta and Carol Eggers

### COMMUNAL WORSHIP - MAY 2024

It seems just like that and it's May! Spring is with us, new growth and new possibilities. It is also another busy time here at Peace Lutheran Church.

The church liturgical calendar cites Ascension Day as May 9 this year, always a special day. We still know that while our Lord Jesus ascended into Heaven, He is still with us, in us and for us.

We come to May 19, the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost is a Greek word meaning fifty. Pentecost is celebrated by Christians 50 days after Easter. It is the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit. Small flames appeared on their heads and allowed them to speak in tongues and proclaim the truth of Christ's resurrection, eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. The color of Pentecost Sunday is red to represent fire and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The season after Pentecost is also the longest part of the entire Church Year.

Please do note: there will be a Congregational Meeting on May 19, directly following the worship service so plan to be there for this meeting!

The first Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday, and the color used in communal worship is white. Trinity Sunday will be on May 26 this year. Green will be used the other Sundays and represents new life, faith and the development of Christian faith.

May 31 is noted as the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin where Mary, with Jesus in her womb, visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is also with child.

Special thanks to all, staff and volunteers, who made the Lent and Easter season so special here. Your efforts are appreciated by the congregation!

# Faith & Fellowship Mission Team

Council Representatives: Diane Powell & Karen Harvey

## LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

On February 21, Pastor Hannah met with Ginny Acosta, Sue Ann Collins, Mary Green, Diane Powell, Kathie Rich, and Anita Rocket to provide training and to lay the foundation for Lay Eucharistic ministry. This ministry extends the invitation to our Lord's table beyond the walls of Peace Lutheran Church, to include those among us who seek Holy Communion in the solace of their home or while in hospital. The elements of bread and wine or juice blessed during Sunday's service will be brought to you and your loved ones at a convenient time. A brief service of word and sacrament will accompany the eucharist, and prayers for healing may be offered as requested. It is our hope that you will avail yourself of this ministry which is a testament to the boundless grace that flows from our Lord's table uniting us all. Please call the office if you would like a visit from Pastor Hannah or one of our Lay ministers.

### 12 NEW MEMBERS

Join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, as we welcome 12 new members to our congregation! We will affirm our baptismal promises together and celebrate these wonderful folks joining our community.

## WOMEN IN MOTION

By Karen Harvey

Women in Motion - WIM - is a group open for any women in our congregation focused on fellowship and fun. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at Peace at 11:30 a.m.; this month on May 16. We celebrate any birthdays that occur during the month with cards and a lovely rendition of "Happy Birthday!" Bring a dish to share; coffee and tea are provided. We also take a collection for gifts at the end of the year...or whenever there is a need. If you work and wish to drop in, please do so; there is always enough food! If you are new to Peace, we'd love to get to know you. To receive emails, contact Karen Harvey at [khpollype@gmail.com](mailto:khpollype@gmail.com) or 435.720.2520. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

## BIRTHDAYS



5/2	Heather Pendleton	5/23	Gene Quandt
5/3	Mary Adams	5/23	Tareesa Smith
5/3	Diana Ayres	5/23	Brook Stockberger
5/10	Christina Little	5/25	Don Lindsey
5/11	Tyler Stockberger	5/25	Hue McCoy
5/13	Joseph Baumgarn	5/25	Susan Mitchell
5/17	Kathryn Hill	5/25	Luis Ortiz
5/21	Steve Baumgarn	5/26	William Makepeace
5/22	Mark Pendleton	5/27	Kaitlyn Coyle
		5/27	Phillip Lingle

## ANNIVERSARIES

5/26 Kathie & Dennis Rich  
5/27 Karen & Gene Quandt  
5/28 Diane & Ron Odegaard

*Please let us know if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect.*

# Hospitality Mission Team

**Council Representatives:** Kathie Rich & Sue Ann Collins

## WELCOMING

What is hospitality? It is greeting visitors, making sure they leave with a mug and a sweet treat. It is taking time to learn about visitors and seekers, even if it means giving up fellowship time with our friends. And it is more. It is making sure that our inclusivity is not only spoken and aspirational, but real and physical. It includes welcoming visitors and seekers, but also inviting and watching for needs and opportunities. It involves having a building that is functional and inviting, including basketball courts and nets and a parking lot that is safe for those with mobility challenges. Hospitality may overlap with fellowship, property, and worship.

Right now we are redeveloping our support of Conlee school, providing teacher appreciation and stocking the school's closet with shoes. In the future we might consider after school opportunities, teen center, working with resettled families, and the homeless. What need can you see? How can we use our abundant gifts to serve God's beloved in our community? Ideas and participation are welcomed. See Kathie Rich or Sue Ann Collins to connect with this ministry.

# Expanding Vision Mission Team

**Council Representatives:** Ross Staffeldt and Ellen Young

**Save the date and plan to attend the  
Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 19,  
immediately following worship.  
At this meeting we will elect new church council and  
committee members, hear reports from standing committees  
and the Synod Assembly delegates,  
and approve funds for parking lot improvements.**

## SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE & YOUR DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

The Mason S Brown Scholarship has been made available through the generosity of Mike and Jennifer Brown more than 19 years ago after the death of their infant daughter, Mason. In spite of their grief, God inspired the Brown family to consider the needs of others, and this scholarship is a witness to their love.

Peace Lutheran hopes to award the Mason S. Brown Scholarship to a graduating high school senior or person who is attending a college, university, community college, or vocational-technical school on a full-time or part-time basis, and is an active member/participant in good standing at Peace Lutheran Church.

Application forms are available at Peace Lutheran Church and must be submitted by July 10. Scholarships will be awarded during a worship service in August.

If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, please place your donation in the offering plate or send it to the church office. We can continue to help students with this scholarship through your generosity.



# Expanding Vision Mission Team

continued

## COUNCIL NOTES

Susanna Odegaard came to the April Council meeting to share her ideas for an after-school program for middle and high school students at Peace, probably starting at once or twice a week. She would like to gather a small group of people interested in this to develop the idea further.

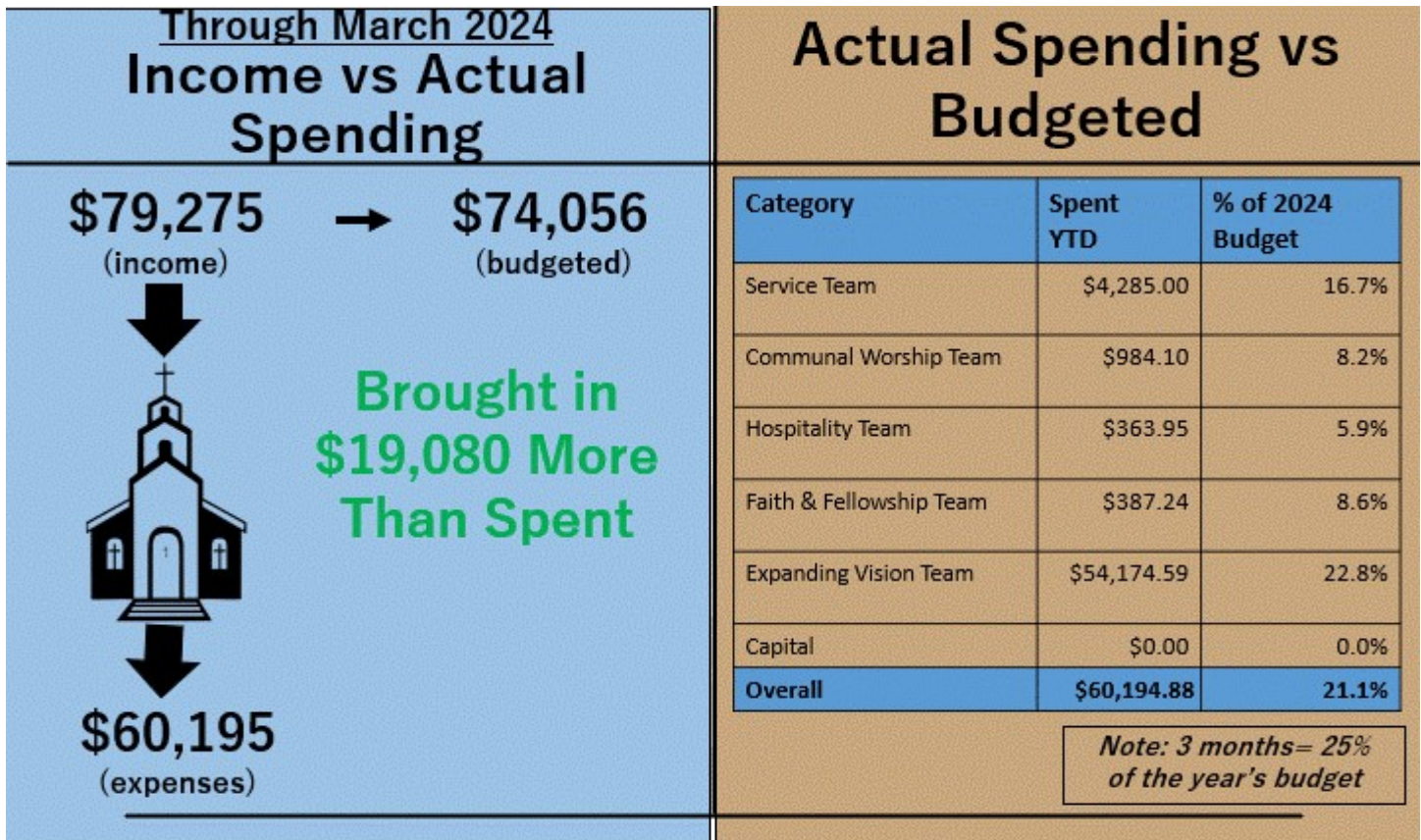
Pastor Hannah reported good progress on arrangements to fill the pastoral needs of the congregation for the twelve weeks of her parental leave.

Our new custodian, Tommy Grimes, has been working three months. This concludes his probationary period; Council approved an increase in his pay rate to align with what other churches are paying.

Council approved a proposal to the congregation to spend \$20,000 in addition to budgeted funds to make improvements to the parking lot. This will be presented at the congregational meeting on May 19, along with reports and the election of new Council members and standing committee members.

Ellen Young, Vice-President

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: Through March 2024



Finance Committee Members: Dwight Eggers, Penny Smith, Al Harvey, Elaine Stover, David Owens, Joel Peterson, Ellen Young, Sandy Johnson.

# Service Mission Team

**Council Representatives:** Monica Hillmer and Gene Quandt

## GREEN TEAM -- IDEAS FROM THE CONGREGATION

Below are the green ideas that were posted on the bulletin board in the narthex in response to the question, "What one thing can you do to protect the earth?"



Walking some place in the nice weather when I could have driven.  
 Grow a winter garden.  
 Counter top compost.  
 I planted a tree.  
 I am a vegetarian  
 Shopping second-hand, Facebook marketplace, rather than buying new  
 In-line water heater (on demand water heater)  
 Cut up old Christmas cards to use for gift tags  
 Use Earth Breeze Laundry Detergent- no plastic bottle.  
 I make fabric gift bags for Christmas.  
 I use wool dryer balls.  
 I'm reading "Electrify: An Optimist's Playbook for Our Clean Energy Future" by Saul Griffith.  
 Read Pope's 10/2023 Laudate Deum letter, [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html)

## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

**Susanna Odegaard**

A couple of years ago, I took two of my nieces to the mall to look at dresses for an upcoming dance at school. As we were walking from one store to the next, surrounded by masses of people, many of them around high school age, my older niece looked around thoughtfully and commented, "You know, Auntie, this is one of the only places kids our age can exist for free." To say I was shocked would be an understatement. But as I considered her words and what I knew of our city, I realized she was right. There are very few places in Las Cruces where middle school and high school youth, outside of school or home, can safely and easily exist and spend time with their friends without having to pay to be there.

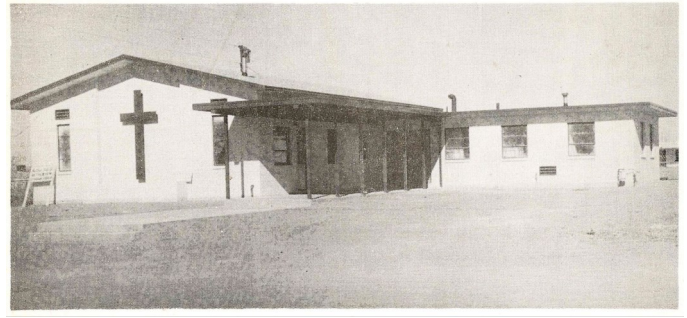
With the recent renovation and rededication of the Bethlehem Room comes a great deal of opportunity for Peace to reach out to and serve our surrounding community. I believe one of the best ways we could do this is by implementing a safe after school youth program for grades six through twelve. I would love to build a safe third space environment (outside home and school) within Peace for children who often have nowhere to go in the afternoons or any place to safely exist with others of their own age.

Peace Lutheran Church has historically been an accepting, welcoming, and innovative congregation, especially in serving our neighborhood and the greater Las Cruces community. From helping to begin Jardin de los Niños to hosting the Border Servant Corps, our congregation has always had such a heart for community and service.

We can continue this tradition of Peace's open heart for our community by building an after school program for youth in grades 6-12, regardless of church membership, religion, faith, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, where they would feel welcome, safe, and unpressured, and can spend their time productively at no cost to them or their families.

As the first steps toward creating this after school youth program, I am gathering a small team of people to begin planning and gathering resources. If you are interested in working toward this goal and would like to help build the program from the ground up, please contact me, Susanna Odegaard, either after church at coffee hour or at [saioirese9009@gmail.com](mailto:saioirese9009@gmail.com).

## THE BETHLEHEM ROOM (Bethlehem Lutheran Church) - *THEN and NOW*



Peace Lutheran Church traces its roots to the 1950s, with the establishment of its two original congregations: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church was the first church on this site, and the current Bethlehem Room was the congregation's original sanctuary. The original building was constructed at a cost of \$28,000. Bethlehem Lutheran Church was dedicated on December 11, 1955. The original building remained the church's main worship home until construction of the current sanctuary in 1968.

After the construction of the new sanctuary (and especially after the addition of the fellowship hall, kitchen, and narthex in 1995) the Bethlehem Room has been used for a variety of activities. From community outreach programs to Bible studies, the room has been a space for many people both in the church and the community to experience hospitality, connection, and support. These include:

- The first home of **Jardín de los Niños**, a non-profit daycare for homeless and near-homeless children, that now operates as an independent organization since moving out of Peace's building in 2001. The Bethlehem Room was a gathering room and the preschool room. Original tile designs of Mickey Mouse and the ABC's from Jardín days still remain under the new carpet.
- A gathering space for the **Welcome Baby** program, providing training and support for first-time parents.
- A well-utilized space for **Border Servant Corps**, including a staff office and serving as a retreat space for full-time volunteers (including Pastor Hannah when she was a BSC volunteer). The Bethlehem Room was also used to store racks of clothes when Peace was providing on-site hospitality for refugees. Today the Bethlehem Room serves as overnight housing for many BSC Border Immersion groups.
- Peace hosted an **After-School Program** that used the Bethlehem Room for students from Conlee Elementary and University Hills Elementary to receive help with their homework and after-school snacks.
- The room has also been utilized for **Vacation Bible School** and other youth programs and events.
- The Bethlehem Room has been used for Bible Study, multigenerational faith formation events, AA and other support groups, classes such as a calligraphy class, and community presentations.

*As we again dedicate this space to the glory and praise of God, we prayerfully discern and consider how God might be calling us to move into the future. How is God calling us to use this room? Who might God be calling us to invite here? What potential ministry and sharing of the gospel will happen in this space? The possibilities are exciting, and we take each next step in faith, knowing that God is present and active.*



## Bethlehem Room Repair and Renovation

Many of our members played an important role in the rebuilding of the Bethlehem Room. From cleaning to demolition to rebuilding to painting and decorating, these volunteers stepped up and helped when they could. Be sure to thank each of them for their efforts.

<i>Glenn Kuehn</i>	<i>Bob Treulich</i>	<i>Ed Grave</i>	<i>Ron Bussian</i>
<i>Dwight Eggers</i>	<i>Gene Quandt</i>	<i>Karen Quandt</i>	<i>Dan Diemer</i>
<i>Jeanne Brown</i>	<i>Sandy Johnson</i>	<i>Joel Peterson</i>	

*The Holy Cross Retreat Center* loaned us the scaffolding to do the painting and drywall work.

These companies were the ones we used in the repair and rebuild process. We had excellent results from them, and you are encouraged to consider them if you need their services.

*Lewis Construction* rebuilt our metal roof and repaired other roof holes. (575) 496-3704

*Advanced Restoration* removed moldy walls, contents and carpet, then cleaned the room. (575) 888-4789

*Four Seasons Heating and Cooling* replaced the heating system and ductwork. (575) 523-4381

*Rios Painting* repaired stucco around the building and painted areas inside and out. (575) 621-6573

*Dunn Edwards* supplied the paint at a nice discount for us. (575) 523-1412

*Malooly Flooring* prepared the floor and installed new carpet. (575) 523-0633